

Another area the FBI needs to improve is its implementation of information technology upgrades. For years, the FBI has been charged with the task of bringing its computer systems up to date. However, despite spurts of progress, this effort has been hobbled by embarrassment and setback.

The FBI had to scrap a \$170 million case management system called Virtual Case File in 2005. The Virtual Case File system was scrapped because it failed before it ever got rolling. VCF was poorly designed and poorly managed, and to make matters worse, the FBI placed little internal controls on the oversight of the project. To date, the FBI still has not completed a new version of the system, now known as Sentinel. Information technology needs to be a top priority for the FBI if it wants to effectively hunt down and disrupt terrorist cells around the globe. The situation could not be more urgent, and the FBI needs to step up and get the job done, on time and on budget.

It is also important to note that the FBI's budget has tripled since 1999. Last year, Congress appropriated almost \$7 billion dollars to the Bureau. We should not tolerate the FBI's continued mismanagement of public funds on programs that don't work. The American taxpayers can not afford another Virtual Case File.

Technological advances are important tools to keep up with dangerous terrorists and criminals. As terrorists and criminals use more advanced technology to evade detection, the FBI needs to stay ahead of them with new technologies to fight them without delays or setbacks. Americans are counting on a system that works to help prevent the next terrorist attack.

Congress plays an important oversight role over the FBI and other agencies. I take this role very seriously, as it is crucial to our system of checks and balances. At this 100-year juncture, I encourage the FBI to step up to the plate to make positive changes in its agency.

Congress also has a role to play in the future of the FBI. In the 107th and 108th Congresses, legislation was introduced to reform the FBI to protect whistleblowers and provide true accountability. Unfortunately, these reforms were never fully enacted into law. We should revisit these efforts to help the Bureau be the best it can be.

I also believe that Congress needs to continue to examine the FBI's counterterrorism mission and look at the calls some have made to split the FBI's law enforcement and domestic intelligence functions along the lines of the British MI-5. Now some may see my statement as a call to dismantle the FBI, that is not what I am saying. What I do believe is that our constitutional duty to conduct oversight includes a soup-to-nuts review of our law enforcement policies, including whether or not those at the FBI are achieving their primary mission. I think there is merit

to arguments on both sides and believe we should spend some of our time looking into this. To summarize, I thank FBI employees, past and present, for their collective past 100 years of service. I also challenge the FBI's management to grab ahold of the reins to build a stronger, more accountable, transparent, and effective FBI. I challenge the FBI's leadership to recognize and correct the problems it currently has so the Bureau can be the top notch law enforcement agency it can be.

Now is an ideal time for the agency to look back on what it has done right and wrong and work to do a lot better in the future.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering over 1,000, are heartbreaking and touching. To respect their efforts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through energy_prices@crapo.senate.gov to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent that today's letters be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

I strongly urge you to fully and aggressively support legislation that extends the tax credits for renewable energy sources. This legislation has been defeated in Congress 3 times in the past year! This is unimaginable and pathetically short-sighted. Solar and wind power generation and the like generates hundreds of thousands of jobs and it is critical that companies expanding these industries be supported in their early stages.

BRIANT.

Thank you for asking! I am disabled and living on Social Security (\$784 per month). It is not a lot, but I had managed to live within my means for a short while and still have some kind of interaction with my church and family.

I will start my story from the time I became disabled and had to leave my employment with the Environmental Protection Agency in June of 1995. I became a full-time camper with my mother. We started out in her 19-foot class C camper and after my disability claim was approved 3 years later we moved "up" to a 29-foot fifth-wheel and a very used truck to tow it with. We took care of each other. We spent several summers hosting at Idaho State Parks for a free campsite (no salary) and one winter in Washington at Fort Canby. Most of our winters were spent in southern Texas at a large RV park where it was warm, the rent was reasonable and activities to keep us socially and

mentally engaged were plentiful. We made many friends on the road. There are/were many people living life as we were as it was all we/they could afford. Hanging out in the desert, bathing in an irrigation ditch, hauling our drinking water and driving 10 miles to "dump" our tank was fun at first. It was a life we could afford as long as the gas prices stayed down. We did not take many "side-trips." I do not know what the folks "on the road" will do now.

Finally, in 2001, I decided I wanted to have a real home again. A place to plant roots, real ones . . . roses and a vegetable garden as well as have a church family; someplace where I did not have to keep moving every few weeks or months; a real community that stayed put. In November of 2001 while visiting my sister in Spokane, I found a small "handy-man's nightmare" in Smelterville, Idaho that I could just afford if I sold the RV and truck. Mom was agreeable. The realtor said "you really do not want that house!" I said "yes, I do!" It had everything I wanted: a place to sit out front and greet the neighbors, an area for a garden and a clothesline to hang my laundry on; simple things.

Our whole world was falling apart at the time of the purchase as it was the week of September 11, 2001. In the silence of no aircraft flying overhead that week we prayed that our country would make it through this difficult and frightening time. We signed the papers, opened the windows and let the house air out for the winter. Mom and I headed south for our final warm, southern winter. I will never forget the sight of the huge American flags flying from the many rigs heading south. Do you know that most of the people living the "gypsy" life are very patriotic? Almost all of the men, and many of the women (myself included) are Veterans. I am reminded of the scene in the movie Independence Day where the RV's were all headed across the desert to Area 51.

We returned to Idaho in March to two feet of snow on the ground and no heat source in the house. We hired two guys (for \$20) who were waiting for the tavern to open to unload the U-haul before the next blizzard caught up with us. It had been chasing us since Denver. We had no furniture, just Rubbermaid tubs of dishes, pots and pans, clothes and craft stuff. (I slept on an air mattress on these tubs for the first year.) We stayed with my sister in Spokane while the weather settled. Fortunately the sun came out the next week so we sat out in the yard at a broken down picnic table in the sun a lot until it warmed up. We shoveled the debris (old carpeting and broken floor tiles) out of the house and a neighbor was kind enough to haul it to the dump. It was a year before we could walk on the floors barefoot. It took me that long with a small belt sander to redo them.

Over the next five years, I patched, painted, re-wired, constructed cabinets, closets and shelves, plumbed and eventually with the help of a USDA loan at 1 percent was able to have a foundation put under the house. I turned the ground in the backyard by hand with a shovel and planted my vegetable garden. I planted flowers. My cousin came up from California with her two foster children and helped me put in a gas fireplace that she had found in an abandoned mobile home, and an old picket fence. We tore out the sidewalk leading to the house and replaced it with stepping stones and an arch with pink roses. I hung my laundry out to dry on my beautiful clothesline. We celebrated my mother's 80th birthday in the backyard in the rain under a tarp. The next day my cousin and I started a real patio cover so we would not get so wet during the next celebration. None of this was fast or easy. I am disabled, remember? I sat in the sun and thanked God for His many blessings.

Last November, as I installed the new kitchen counter and sink and the house was finally almost perfect, as I celebrated my 64th birthday, I sold my home because I was unable to keep up with the utilities. My mortgage was low (only 4.75 percent), and I had a USDA grant which enabled me to have a new gas furnace. Unfortunately the town is in the process of replacing the sewer system, the water district is upgrading their system and the electricity and gas just keep going up and up and up. I was paying more for utilities than I was for my mortgage and USDA loan. I attended a financial seminar provided by my church to find out how I could make ends meet. What was I not doing that would make the difference of financial stability? I tried finding part-time work but no one would hire me for the few hours I could work without compromising my health. My skills were outdated. I could not obtain approval for school on the Internet. I could only go to school to learn something if I would not be self-employed and the school was so far away. The hours spent would be on their terms, not when my body could work, and would again compromise my health. Selling was my only way out of debt, or I could continue as I was and continue to "charge" all my groceries, medicine, gas, etc., and keep the bills paid . . . for a while.

The price of gasoline was not too much of a problem as I lived 2 blocks from church, 1 block from the post office and Walmart had just moved into town! I could still walk to most places I needed to go.

Now, gasoline is a problem. The only low-income apartment I could find was in Wallace, Idaho, 15 miles from where I had been. [It does not] seem very far, does it? But if everything you do is that far away, there is no public transportation, and the price of gasoline is \$4.00+, it is far indeed. I do much of my shopping via the Internet as the drive to the nearest town where fabric, books, electronics, etc. are sold is 50 miles each way. My daughter paid for my Internet service so I would not be so out of touch with the world.

I was already committed to directing my granddaughter's school Christmas and Spring musical plays. That meant a trip to Kellogg every day. While I still had some money left from the sale of my home I could absorb this cost. Now the money is gone and I haven't seen my family in 2 weeks. I try to combine my trips to church with shopping for groceries at Walmart. I do not attend many of the functions at church anymore. I used to be at the church almost every day. I may have to stop going to that church completely and go to one here in Wallace. That sounds reasonable, but the church in Smelterville is ALIVE! The churches here are not.

I miss my little four room house in Smelterville with its big south-facing windows, playing in the dirt in the yard, the scent of the flowers, the garage with my wood-working tools and the clothesline. My apartment here is clean, maintained, sufficient but dark. It is on the north side of a square red brick building. There is no room for my saws, my bicycle or my kayak. It is too dark even for container plants. The trunk of my car is my storage room. It is like living in a cave, and the building reminds me of a prison. I must have the lights on all the time, but the heat doesn't cost as much as my home did and I do not have to pay for sewer, water and garbage. Now with the price of gas I also miss my family, my church and my friends. I am trying to start a new life here. I really am. But starting all over again this time is harder than all the physical work I did on my home.

Yes, we need alternative sources of energy. I have always known that. We need to build

smarter. I have always known that. We need community transportation especially in rural areas. If it is at all possible, make some of these alternative sources of energy available to the poorer elders of this country. Do not make them leave their homes because the infrastructure in this country is falling apart. Do not allow any new homes to be built without solar or wind power. The Swedes do not let you build without a composting toilet! I learned a lot living in an RV over the years. I have read many books on alternative housing. I would have built one but it would have cost me much more than my "tear-it-down!" house that no one wanted did. We do not have to keep building the way we are. So wasteful. Now I'm running off on a tangent and this letter is too long already!

Thank you for listening to this elder travel down a few old trails. I appreciate it.

I would be happy to talk with you or your representatives if you have any questions.

MERILYN, Wallace.

I provide sliding fee scale mental health services for those who do not qualify for assistance or have insurance that covers their services. If my wife did not have a second income as a teacher (24 years) I could not afford this ministry. I live and travel central Idaho (Valley, Adams, and Idaho counties) as do my patients. Rising energy is problematic both in fossil fuels and electricity for us all. Most of us are independent by nature, but this ongoing crisis will continue to put many of us on assistance lists we wish to avoid. It is also affecting the delivery of basic subsistence services for our schools, hospitals, and public services.

MICHAEL.

The suggestion to drill in ANWAR and off the coasts is mere rhetoric when you imply it will reduce the rising costs of gasoline at the pump today. From all the information I have found, it would take 10 years to get that oil into production, and then it would supply a mere 6 months of the U.S. needs at our current rate of consumption. Probably less than we would be demanding in 10 years, [I] think? Do you have information that contradicts this? I would be happy to hear it.

The multinational oil companies who would be doing the drilling would be selling the oil on the open world market, and we as a country would have no more chance to benefit from this than we now do from the "foreign" oil you discourage. They make a profit wherever they drill, they do not save it just for us. We already sell most of our power-producing coal to China today. How many [in] the Congress know that?

We cannot drill our way out of this mess.

You should first close the investment loopholes that have encouraged the new "bubble" of speculation in crude oil (after running away from the housing bubble). It would be great if you could also close other potential "bubble" opportunities, like food, and who knows what the investment nuts will think of next? Speculation is well on the way to ruining our economy.

You should next enact serious legislation to encourage conservation, and invest in an expansion of proven alternative energy sources such as solar and wind power.

You should NOT encourage investment in nuclear power. That, also, will take 20 years to come online, therefore having no effect on our current needs. So far as I can see we have never found a way to dispose safely of the waste. To encourage nuclear building will be a very expensive subsidy for the nuclear industry, but creating even more unpleasant problems for future generations.

You should encourage investment, with tax incentives, for technological research

and development of truly new energy possibilities. I have no idea what these might turn out to be, but Americans are supposed to be inventive. Let's encourage that old spirit again.

If you really want to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, you should pass some kind of subsidy for low income people to buy hybrid or electric cars. (I know, I know . . . sounds like a handout). But it would be the most effective use of tax dollars in a direct way to substantially reduce reliance on oil. Eliminating the subsidy for the oil companies, and spending it on fuel efficient cars right now, would be more logical. (Just think of it as a gift to the struggling automotive industry; if you really want to be patriotic limit the payment to American made cars, if you can find any of those left.)

I live out in the country, and I am only one of many here in the rural west who have to have my car to get to town for work, groceries, doctor appointments, etc. We have no public transportation available. At current prices, one trip to town costs me \$8.50. Of course I try to limit the number of trips, because I am retired. Ridiculous ideas like a gas tax moratorium are a waste of everyone's time. So are the drumbeats of drilling for more oil in inadequately supplied places which could not possibly or timely relieve the crunch we are in now. If we had a decent oil pool anywhere in the U.S. I could see drilling, but these possibilities you list are inadequate. We need to get away from oil as much as possible, and we need to do it fast. I have lived most of my life in an oil abundant economy, taking it for granted. But I can see the road ahead and it's not pretty.

I am guessing my letter will go in the waste pile reserved for those who disagree with you. It would be interesting to hear your thoughts on my suggestions. It is time for real head scratching, thinking, and cooperation, not politics as usual.

JILL, Orofino.

Senator Crapo—with pleasure. As a retired engineer, professor, vet, et al.—your priorities are close—certainly emphasize nuclear—but our legislators should stop playing their petty political games and allow/seek oil production and refining capabilities! Drill in the north slope/preserve of Alaska—NOW! Allow the oil companies to build more refineries—NOW! Most frankly—the political and environmental games have REALLY CAUSED our energy problems!

W.C. Idaho Falls.

We appreciate the offer to allow us to address this concern. Vern and I are on fixed incomes and are working part time jobs to help make the ends meet. Social Security brings a large chunk of the income into our home but it is quickly swallowed up with medical insurance to cover any problems that we might have. With both of us being in the 70s now it is harder to find work opportunities. We both come from large families and so we were unable to go to college for a degree. Both our fathers were blue collar workers who only went through grade school years. This was the norm for their growing up years.

With cost of insurances for medical, home and vehicle, we are paying out over \$650.00 a month. That is for the least amount we can afford. Social Security gives us a small increase in January and then takes it away with the premiums to cover our Medicare insurance. This is over and above the amount listed above.

My husband worked for Frontier Airlines for 26 years and we had put aside what we thought was an adequate amount to help us with the addition of the remaining work years added and without child costs. We also

had approximately \$78,000 in shares in the company through People Express. When my husband was 50 years old, Mr Frank Lorenzo did his usual number on the airline industry and placed Frontier into bankruptcy. Our shares disappeared, our pension was pretty much stolen to put in his pocket and we were left with no real future. We tried for 2 years to survive and save our house in Boise to no avail.

Now enter the price increases to drive our vehicles, heat our homes, and feed ourselves. The environmentalists have 'done a number' on their fellow countrymen by shutting down the ability to use our own reserves to help the country out. We are more fortunate than a lot of our fellow men but we still are struggling to make ends meet and see the need to cut back even more to survive.

Our oldest granddaughter is getting married in August in San Diego. We had plans to go down there for that. That will probably not happen unless we go further into debt to purchase either fuel for our vehicle or an airline ticket which will also need fuel to get to Salt Lake City and back. We are greatly disturbed by the rich, lining their pockets at the expense of those who thought that we could retire and survive. Heaven help those who still have families to provide for.

Let us open up our rich reserves, put the U.S. back into being a country that provides for its countrymen, with work in the oil fields, and a God-fearing, loving-your-fellow-man country. Greed, pride, and selfish people are dictating what we do in the Senate, the House, and those who pander to those who call the shots by 'buying' them off to take care of themselves.

VERN & MARTHA.

RECOGNIZING DEL TINSLEY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of Del Tinsley; the 2008 inductee into the Wyoming Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Del's fascination with agriculture began as a small boy. He spent his summers helping ranchers in the community of Guernsey, WY. As the director of the Wyoming Office of USDA Rural Development, Del's enthusiasm for agriculture has become a lifelong career dedicated to Wyoming's farmers and ranchers.

Del's boyhood summers on the ranch soon developed into a successful tenure selling advertising for the Wyoming Stockman-Farmer. In 1990, Del went to work building the newly established Wyoming Livestock Roundup from a little known publication to the must-have newspaper for every major implement dealer and livestock auction in the State.

As director of the Rural Development office of the USDA, Del has successfully encouraged renewable energy development and business diversification within Wyoming's agricultural industry.

Over the years, Del has been a voice of wisdom for Wyoming's farming and ranching communities.

I am pleased to honor Mr. Del Tinsley on the Senate floor today. Del is a true steward of the land. Del continues to uphold the Wyoming heritage of farming and ranching.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. LOUIS ROADIES SOCCER TEAM

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I congratulate the St. Louis Roadies soccer team on their recent participation in the Homeless USA Soccer Cup. The Roadies were the first team ever from St. Louis to participate in this special event, which was held last month here in Washington, DC. I had the privilege and honor to meet personally the entire team and their coaches from Peter and Paul Community Services in my office here on Capitol Hill before their competition. While the team did not capture the title, I am proud of their performance and representation of the St. Louis community and my home State of Missouri. However, I am even prouder of their personal perseverance and commitment to self-improvement after experiencing the terrible plight of homelessness.

According to the organizers of the Homeless World Cup, about 77 percent of participants in the 48-team tournament go on to better their lives through employment, housing, education and/or drug and alcohol treatment. The founders of the event believe that it provides an opportunity for these men to express actively themselves through organized competition to build character and positive individuality. Based on their performance, I agree.

The six-man team from St. Louis was made up of men who were recently homeless. Unfortunately, many others suffer from the plight of homelessness. It is frankly a national tragedy that we can and must end. Nevertheless, the spirit of the Roadies and others who participated in the Homeless Soccer USA Cup gives us significant hope that we can end homelessness.

All six men and their coaches deserve high praise. I personally congratulate the six players, Oscar Grandberry, Daniel Blue, Doug Carter, Labon Smith, Marcus Davis, and Vince Steiniger; and the coaches, assistant coach Dena Emmanuelle, coach David Flomo, and coach Keith Deisner.

Let me highlight one of the players named Oscar Grandberry who played goalie for the Roadies. His play earned him a spot on the U.S. national homeless team as an alternate. He is an amazing story of determination. Oscar is a native Liberian and former child soldier who is now on his way to completing a second master's degree from St. Louis University. Oscar and Team USA will travel to Melbourne, Australia, later this year to compete in the sixth annual Homeless World Cup and I wish them my best.

The Roadies placed third in the beginners' bracket of the USA Cup and earned the Cup's Fair Play Award. This award is annually granted to the team "showing the best in human spirit and embodying what the tournament is all about." As an addition to the already

exceptional sporting culture of St. Louis and the State of Missouri, the Roadies are an inspiration to, and an excellent representation of, the great people of St. Louis.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF ALBANY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 100th anniversary of the city of Albany, located in Alameda County, CA.

The city of Albany, formerly known as Ocean View, was incorporated as Ocean View in September 1908. In 1909, voters changed the name of the city to Albany in honor of the birthplace of the city's first mayor, Frank Roberts. This year, we celebrate its centennial anniversary. Well-recognized for its prominent landmark, Albany Hill, the city of Albany has charmed residents and visitors alike for decades.

Situated on the eastern shore of the San Francisco Bay in northern Alameda County, Albany's waterfront has undergone significant changes over the last 100 years. From the renovation of the Albany Bulb to the city's involvement in Eastshore State Park, the city of Albany has taken dramatic steps to promote a greener, more sustainable city. These efforts were rewarded in 2008 when Albany was named one of California's greenest cities.

Solano Avenue, the principal shopping street in Albany, traverses the city from east to west, while San Pablo Avenue, its other major commercial street, runs north to south. These two streets account for the majority of commerce in the city. Solano Avenue is also host to the annual Solano Stroll, which is held on the second Sunday of every September. This event began in 1974 and has since been designated by the Library of Congress as a National Local Legacy. Another local landmark to be found in Albany is Golden Gate Fields, the only horse racing track in the San Francisco Bay Area.

I congratulate the city of Albany on this special occasion of its 100th birthday and salute its wonderful community spirit.●

CITY OF KINGSBURG'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the city of Kingsburg, a family-oriented community located in California's San Joaquin Valley.

The story about the city of Kingsburg, like many other communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley, can be traced to its fertile soils, Mediterranean climate, and industrious population. In the early 1870s, the lure of a better and more stable life prompted two Swedish natives to settle in a Central Pacific Railroad town called Kings River Switch. In 1874, the site for the present-day town site was